

The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, along with the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. This assurance of freedom gives us all the opportunity to openly practice and speak our beliefs and allows me to speak on the House floor right now.

The United States is a place where all faiths can be peacefully practiced, free from fear of persecution. The very foundation of our Nation, a place of freedom and liberty for all, was conceived by individuals in search of religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America will always be a beacon of light in the world, and we will always protect our fundamental, unified commitment of religious freedom.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARGARET MARIE PETERS

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to wish one of my constituents from my hometown of Anaheim, Ms. Margaret Marie Peters, a very happy 94th birthday.

Margaret was born in the year of the Great Crash. From an early age, she wanted to learn, and her grandmother taught her how to read and write. She graduated first in her high school class, and she was the first to graduate from high school in her family.

Later, Margaret married a decorated World War II marine. Together, they raised five daughters in Anaheim. In her forties, she attended college classes. It was something she always wanted to do. Later on, Margaret spent 29 years working for Disneyland.

Margaret will turn 94 on February 2, and she has witnessed many changes in this great country. Clearly, the United States today has come a long way since 1929.

Margaret, happy birthday to you and many more.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, God created all children with unique skills and talents. We should encourage flexibility in learning to allow each student's gifts to flourish so they can live the American Dream.

On this National School Choice Week, we must empower America's families to have a voice, enabling them to choose a learning environment that is just right for their children, one that will both challenge that student and encourage them to develop their God-given talents.

Sadly, our schoolchildren are facing years' worth of learning and development loss, which is why education freedom today is so important.

According to polling done by the American Federation for Children, 72 percent of voters polled support school choice, highlighting broad bipartisan support on this issue. A ZIP code should never determine a child's future.

As a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I am committed to advancing the cause of school choice this Congress. I call on my colleagues on both sides to join me and to do the same.

ON BEHALF OF FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of every American child who is going to bed tonight hungry. I rise on behalf of the food insecure child and the meal insecure child. Pandemic-era lunch programs have expired, and that number is now 10 million. That is more than the entire populations of New York City, Washington, D.C., and Detroit combined.

I was meeting with the school administrators of Farmington Hills, and they were telling me 40 percent of our children are food insecure. This is impacting Oakland County, Michigan.

We have a bill to address this, as we did last term in the Congress, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act. Let's get this passed. Let's work together.

My colleagues are talking about school choice. Let's make sure that when students go to school, they have lunch guaranteed.

OPPOSING NEW YORK'S CONGESTION PRICING TAX

(Mr. LAWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to oppose New York State's disastrous congestion pricing tax, which is nothing more than a tax grab hurting middle-class and working-class families in my district, especially those first responders who are forced to commute into New York City by car. It would cost them an additional \$5,000 a year to commute to work, \$23 a day, just to get into Midtown Manhattan.

Rockland County, where I live, faces a \$40 million value gap. We pay \$40 million more in taxes to the MTA system than services we receive. We have no one-seat ride option from Rockland County, and express rail service has been cut. In Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties, commuters have received a 10 percent cut in express rail service.

Many folks choose not to take the subway anymore because of the rise in crime. Violent felonies are up over 40 percent on the subways in New York City.

That is why I joined Congressman GOTTHEIMER from New Jersey in co-sponsoring the Anti-Congestion Tax Act. We will hold the MTA accountable and end this program, stopping it dead in its tracks.

CHAMPIONING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

(Ms. SCHOLTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to champion the American economy and to voice my support for American workers and businesses.

I have just returned from a busy district work period back in west Michigan, where I saw firsthand the need for a champion on economic revitalization.

The district I represent has long been known for manufacturing and industry. Many global companies started right in west Michigan out of garages and storefronts, driven by their local communities and supported by their representatives in government, but we all see firsthand the difficult economic times that are taking their toll on our communities and across the United States. Just last year, my district alone lost dozens of small businesses.

This is unacceptable, and it is why I am committed to moving the American economy forward in Congress. It is so important that we, both Republicans and Democrats, support American industry and our economy. It is not only the right thing to do; it is what our constituents expect us to do.

We have so much in common here, and I believe that both parties can come together and support American ingenuity and innovation. Let's get to work.

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF ROE V. WADE

(Mr. LANGWORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, the consequences of Roe have been nothing short of devastating. Reporting data indicates that nearly 64 million souls have perished since the fateful decision in 1973.

I want to take this 50th anniversary, a dark moment in our history, and turn it into an opportunity to remind my fellow Americans of the gift of life, a gift that I have been so blessed and fortunate to witness.

My greatest joy has been the birth of my two children, Madeline and Oliver. In October, we welcomed our son, Oliver Theodore, who was a month early after my wife, Erin, had a very debilitating and uncertain pregnancy.

As we spent time in the NICU, we were blessed that our little boy got stronger every single day. He is now very healthy. We also saw those parents in the NICU that were praying for their babies' survival after deliveries at 23 weeks.

We witnessed the true miracle of life and the power of life. We must be a Nation that cherishes life and gives support to women facing unintended pregnancies.

Every soul has value and purpose, and it is my pledge that my work in this distinguished body will be to fervently and faithfully protect the unborn.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RON KLAİN

(Mr. KHANNA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic achievements of Ron Klain, one of the best chiefs of staff in modern American history.

Ron Klain helped craft the American Rescue Plan, finally prioritizing working families and the middle class.

Ron Klain helped implement the President's vaccine plan that made Americans return to normal life.

He was key, in a closely divided House and Senate, to passing the CHIPS and Science Act. He was key to the infrastructure bill, to help the House caucus come together, progressives and moderates, and Republicans.

Ron Klain succeeded because he had personal relationships with so many Members. I believe when history is written, he will be regarded as one of the best chiefs of staff.

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NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight to offer my support for the National School Choice Week.

Our public education system is in dire need of reform. School administrators seem to prioritize indoctrinating students with critical race theory and other leftwing ideology, not even actually teaching them reading, writing, or math.

As a result, our students' scores in these subjects are far below other nations in the past. Schools are clearly failing to prepare our children for success. Instead, they are hiding their agenda from parents who have a right to know.

Parents have the right to know and they only want the best for their children. They want to put them in better schools and they want to have the choice to do so. National School Choice Week gives parents the option and flexibility to place their children in an institution that best fits the child's needs and their values.

It is a simple, popular solution to fix our failing public education system. School choice will incentivize public

schools to compete for each student by offering a quality education that will improve their prospects for future success.

If the public education system doesn't work for students, it is time to reform it so that it does.

SHORTAGE OF HOUSING RENTAL UNITS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have another issue I think that this body ought to take up and that the news media ought to be looking into—and that is another cost of the huge number of illegal immigrants entering this country.

It has been brought to my attention by property developers that we already have a shortage of over 4 million rental units or residential units in the country. When we let in another 2 million people a year, what do you think happens?

It further causes a shortage of rental units and sometimes single-family units in this country, which results in what?

The law of supply and demand is driving up rents because of all the people coming in the country. We know already—a huge, new expense for schools as we have to educate illegals. We know about President Biden's vow to pay for free healthcare for illegals, which he is fulfilling.

But for the individual looking for rental units, is their rent going up \$100, \$200, or \$300 as we continue to have this shortage.

It is time the press got on this issue. It is time that the Congress got on this issue, and let people know—particularly in the southern United States—if your rents are going up, it is because of all these people that are being allowed in the country.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Abortion is one of the greatest tragedies in our Nation, and Roe v. Wade opened the door for abortions on demand until birth.

Over the last five decades, more than 60 million unborn lives have been taken and a tragic, irreversible mark has been left on countless mothers, fathers, and families.

While there is still so much work to be done, I stand here hopeful. The pro-life community is stronger than ever. With last year's Dobbs v. Jackson decision, this country is beginning to move in the right direction to defend the defenseless and support life. We are changing hearts and minds.

Of course, we still have a long way to go in this fight, and I am proud that one of the first things that we voted on in this Congress was the born-alive act to protect babies who have survived an attempted abortion.

I am also proud to have introduced two bills to help protect the unborn, women, and taxpayers: the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which I was asked to carry by former Congresswoman Vickie Hartzler who carried the bill in the last Congress, and the Protecting Life and Taxpayers Act.

We know that Americans across the country value the lives of the precious unborn babies, and it is just wrong to force them to spend their tax dollars on something that goes against their most closely held values.

This evening, I am pleased to be joined by so many champions of the unborn to celebrate the victories, with many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), who is championing the efforts with Chairman BOST to end taxpayer-funded abortions at the VA. He has been a lead sponsor of the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, which gives States the authority to exclude abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, from receiving Medicaid funds.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, Friday, thousands of Americans participated in the March for Life in support of the most vulnerable in our society who have no voice: the preborn.

Today, we continue to recognize the dignity of every individual and fight for the most fundamental right of all: the right to life. Our instincts were always right. Science has revealed it is not just a clump of cells in the womb. At 15 weeks, babies suck their thumbs, kick, jump, have fully developed hearts, and can feel pain.

What looks like a baby in the womb, revealed to us through ultrasound technology, is in fact a baby when they are born.

The radical Roe v. Wade decision was based on bad science and bad jurisprudence, and I am grateful that it was overturned.

Now is the time where we as a Nation must continue to build a culture that respects life and recognizes the God-given dignity of every individual and that first unalienable right: the right to life.

Despite the terror tactics we have seen come from pro-abortionists—burning and vandalizing pregnancy centers